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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECIN](#) [ETRD](#) [TBIO](#) [KPAO](#)

SUBJECT: Caracas Proposals for FY 2010 Biotechnology Outreach
Strategy and Department Resources

REF: 09 STATE 122732

¶1. (U) This cable contains Post's proposals for biotech outreach in response to State 122732.

¶2. (U) Though the GBRV has not granted approval for biotechnology crops, there is significant interest and research from government institutions and universities on its development. Despite the government's reluctance towards biotechnology, Venezuelan producers continue to express their need and acceptance of biotech products. Venezuela presents an opportunity to further encourage agricultural biotechnology to address food security and increased production. By uniting different participants in the industry, there is an opportunity to further their cooperation as well as the use of biotechnology.

¶3. (U) Collaborating with the United States Department of Agriculture, Post recommends the following proposals aimed at tackling obstacles to biotechnology propagation in Venezuela. They are ranked in order of viability and importance.

¶4. (U) Proposal 1 - Sponsor a conference in support of REDBIO: This event would help rejuvenate the international organization REDBIO's activities in Venezuela by bringing together national and U.S. biotech specialists, interested parties, university students and press. Focusing on topics that promote biotechnology, it would create synergy in Caracas that currently is not present and serve as a multiplier to REDBIO's regional efforts. (Estimated cost: \$40,000; Expected execution: Spring/Summer 2010)

¶5. (U) Proposal 2 - DVC seminar: Using the PAS section's DVC capabilities, Post would foster biotechnology education among university students and other interested parties, who lack access to these resources. In conjunction with a local university, participants could attend bi-weekly seminars at the Embassy to interact with U.S. and Venezuelan experts on biotechnology. This would help prospective agronomists to understand the benefits of biotechnology and its applicability in Venezuela. The programs could also foster contact between Venezuelan and U.S. scientific and education communities. (Estimated cost: \$10,000; Expected execution: Summer 2010)

¶6. (U) Post appreciates the Department's consideration of these proposals.
CAULFIELD